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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Received

DEC 28 2011

Office of PAGR

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW
Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

RE: Final determination to close the Alvord, IA Post Office

To Whom It May Concern;

As management of the American State Bank in Alvord, IA, I am hereby appealing the decision to close the Post Office in our town. Please find below the reasons for this appeal:

1. The Alvord Post Office is not a financial burden to the United States Postal Service. The low overhead of this office, due to inexpensive operating conditions in our area, and the absence of a postmaster, actually makes this office profitable. We are not asking for a postmaster with the higher wage, the single clerk that runs the Alvord Post Office does a great job, and keeps the office running efficiently, serves the citizens of our town well, and is willing to continue doing so in this capacity. Considering the cost of installing cluster box units, and the additional hours required by a rural delivery person who will earn a higher hourly wage than our current clerk, closing this office is not cost-effective for the USPS.
2. Closing the Alvord Post Office will create hardship among the elderly persons who live in our town, and the lower-income residents. We have a number of residents who daily walk to the post office to get their mail, and do their other postal business. It is not logical to say these people will be served in the same way by a rural carrier from another town.
3. Closing the Alvord Post Office will negatively impact local business. It is already difficult for a small town such as ours to maintain our business population and achieve growth. Not having a local post office will only make this situation worse. As for our business, the bank will not be served well by the rural delivery plan. It is not possible for us to service our customers as we now do by a once-a-day post office delivery system. We need our in-coming mail earlier in the day to

timely process the mailed-in deposits, payments, and other transactions and paperwork. And it is necessary that certain daily notices be sent each day, and there is not a way to have these mailings ready early in the day. We prepare documents and notices to be mailed that day until close to the daily mailing time cutoff at our Post Office. If our Alvord Post Office is closed, it will be necessary to send a bank employee every day down the road to a neighboring town to either pick up our mail, or deliver our daily mail. This is detrimental to our business, as it will be to others. Being without a Post Office will stifle the growth of business in Alvord.

4. Law requires that the maximum degree of effective and regular postal services be provided to small towns. How can this be reconciled with the planning of closing the Post Office in Alvord, Iowa? The Alvord Post Office may be a very small part of the USPS, however, it is an important part of Alvord, the community in which we live, do business, and raise our families. We consider the Post Office vital to our community, and we are entitled by law to the same postal service benefits as any other community in the United States.

We respectfully request that the determination to close the Alvord Post Office be reviewed and remanded. This closing would be disadvantageous to the USPS, and have damaging effects to our community, both business and residential.

Respectfully,

AMERICAN STATE BANK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel J. Schreurs', written in a cursive style.

Rachel J. Schreurs
Vice President